'Seminar on Himalayan Conservation'

1088. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a two-day seminar was arranged on "Himalayan Conservation" programme recently in Delhi;

(b) if so, who were the participants of the seminar and what were the main issue/issues discussed therein stating the views of participants expressed in the Seminar; and

(c) what is Government's decision about the matter discussed in the seminar and the measures taken|likely to be taken to conserve the Himalayas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) A two day seminar on Himalayan Conservation Programme, Governments-People's Participation was organised by the Himalayan Environment Trust on June 27-28, 1994 in New Delhi.

(b) The Seminar was attended by the Deputy Minister of Environment, Royal Government of Bhutan, Trustees of the Himalayan Environment Trust, representatives of the United Nations Education and Scientific Organisation (UNESCO), International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), delegates from Nepal, technical experts and NGOs involved in the field of Environment, representatives of the Government of India and the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

The participants expressed the need to take up Conservational measures in the Himalayan region involving Governments and the people. Popularising "The Himalayan Code of Conduct" adopted by the Union International Alpine Associations (UIAA) to protect the unique environment and ancient cultures of Himalayas by the mountaineers, trekkers and others involved in and concerned with adventure tours was also discussed.

(c) The Government have taken note of the issues discussed in the Seminar. The Gangotri Conservation project sponsored by Himalayan Environment Trust and supported by the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Government of Uttar Pradesh is visualised to control environmental Pollution through activities like construction of toilets, providing garbage bins, incinerators and generating public awareness to keep the area clean.

Industrial pollution in the country

1089. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some programme for prevention of industrial pollution in the country have been approved for seeking assistance from the World Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the total amount of such aid with their terms and conditions;

(d) whether any strategy to prevent industrial pollution in the country has been drawn State and Union Territory-wise;

(e) if so, the names of such States and Territories according to the priority order;

(f) whether some allocation of funds has been made according to the requirements of the States and Union Territories; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In order to prevent and alleviate environmental degradation

caused by industrial operations in our country, first phase of a World Bank assisted project is being implemented in the States of Gujarat, Maharashtra Tamil Nadu and U. P. The project involves a line of credit of US $155.6 million and counterpart funds of about US $108 million provided by the Government, financial institutions and by industrial units availing the loan. This project was initiated in June 1991 and would be completed in 1997. The second phase of the World Bank assisted Industrial Pollution Prevention Project would be implemented from November 1994 to 2001. It involves an assistance of US $168 million from World Bank and US $162 million as counterpart funds from Central Government, State Governments of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and financial institutions.

(d) and (e) An integrated approach for control of pollution in grossly polluting industries have been taken up by the Government. Under this programme, 22 critically polluted areas have been identified in the following States for control of pollution on priority basis:

(1) Andhra Pradesh (Patancheru Bollaram, Visakhapatnam)

(2) Assam (Digboi)

(3) Bihar (Dhanbad)

(4) Gujarat (Vapi)

(5) Himachal Pradesh (Parwanoo, Kala-Amb)

(6) Kerala (Greater Cochin)

(7) Karnataka (Bhadravati)

(8) Maharashtra (Chembur)

(9) Madhya Pradesh (Korba, Nagda-Ratlam)

(10) Orissa (Talcher)

(11) Punjab (Govindgarh)

(12) Rajasthan (Pali, Jodhpur)

(13) Tamil Nadu (Manali, North Arcot)

(14) Uttar Pradesh (Singrauli)

(15) West Bengal (Durgapur, Howrah)

(16) Delhi U. T. (Najafgarh Drain Basin)

(f) and (g) The Government has allocated Rs. 2 crores during 1994-95 as assistance for abatement of pollution in the country and is released to the States and Union Territories as and when required. In addition to this amount, under the World Bank assisted project Phase I and II, a sum of US $32.1 million is available for strengthening of the State Pollution Control Boards of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan.

Pollution control

1090. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a High-powered Committee has been constituted to prepare a comprehensive action plan for environment and pollution control in Delhi and outside;

(b) if so, the terms of reference of this Committee;

(c) whether the Committee has been asked to submit its report within some target time;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government propose to take some alternative measures to check the rising pollution till the report of said Committee is received; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir. A High Powered Committee has been constituted for preparing a comprehensive action plan on environment and pollution control in Delhi.